

# Record

132:37  
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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Mississippi team headed to Ike area

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and special reports) — More than one million hot meals have been prepared by Southern Baptist disaster relief teams since Hurricane Gustav hit the Louisiana coast on September 1 and Hurricane Ike clobbered Galveston and Houston on the morning of September 13.

In the wake of Ike, more than 100 Southern Baptist disaster relief units were heading into the Texas Gulf Coast September 15. Once there, Baptists from about 20 state conventions working with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army will prepare and serve another 410,000 meals per day for evacuees, victims, and volunteers.

Jim Didlake, men's ministry director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief coordinator, said September 16 that the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force has dispatched an initial mass feeding team to Lake Charles, La., which was hit hard by Gustav and suffered a glancing blow from Ike.

"When they arrive, they will make an assessment on whether we will roll our mass feeding unit or take over the meal preparation at the site of the Louisiana Baptist feeding unit," Didlake said.

The Mississippi Baptist mass feeding unit is a fully self-contained eighteen-wheeler capable of preparing thousands of meals per day. It is staffed by Mississippi Baptist volunteers and supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. The Mississippi Baptist mass feeding unit was activated after Gustav cut power to a wide swath of southwest Mississippi and downed thousands of trees. The unit prepared over 28,000 meals from the parking lot of First Church, Natchez.

Didlake reported that a six-man volunteer chainsaw team from Yalobusha Association in Water Valley is presently working in Houma, La., which also received a double blow from Gustav and Ike.

"When our feeding units get in and set up today, we expect to do significant feeding in Texas beginning Tuesday," said Mickey Caison, director of disaster relief for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga.

Just since Ike struck the Galveston and Houston areas Saturday morning, Texas Baptists have served more than 50,000 meals at feeding sites in Marshall, Bryan, and San Antonio.

Three "mega" feeding centers will be set up in League City, Baytown, and at Houston's First Church, Caison reported. The three mega feeding units alone will serve more than 80,000 meals a day.

Ten other Texas cities or towns — venues identified as "places of need" by either the



**HURRICANE HELP** — A mission team from First Church, Gulfport, assists in a North Carolina Baptist Men distribution of meals reflecting the love of Jesus to residents who weathered Hurricane Gustav in Houma, La. Southern Baptist disaster relief teams are now headed into Texas and Louisiana in response to Hurricane Ike. (BP photo courtesy of James Edward Bates)

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) or the Texas Baptist Men — are under consideration as potential feeding sites in southeast Texas. Caison said most of the Texas-based units moved into place and went into operation on Sunday.

Caison noted that some of the units are having to wait on the search and rescue operations to be completed. Then roads must be cleared before law enforcement will allow the evacuees back to their homes.

"We want to go in and get set up before the evacuees come back home. That would expedite our process. We just ask our churches to be patient," Caison said. "We know they're eager to get in and start helping."

Caison noted that Ike also dumped torrential rain as it moved into the Midwest, causing serious flooding in Chicago and other parts of Illinois as well as Ohio and Indiana. "The impact of the hurricane is continuing to be felt in those areas and will be for days to come," Caison said.

Caison announced that many disaster relief teams stationed in Louisiana have been released, including teams from New Mexico, Kansas/Nebraska, Arkansas, Arizona, and Ohio. Some of these teams will go home, others will go to Texas. "Some need to go home and rest. Others need to go back to repair equipment," Caison said. "When you consider the ice storms back in the winter, floods in the spring, and now the hurricanes, it's been a long hard year for disaster relief in the SBC."

In addition to the 1,000,000-plus meals provided since Gustav, Southern Baptist disaster relief also has completed 565 chainsaw and 18 mud-out jobs; provided more than 17,000 showers and 2,600 laundry loads; and recorded 11,368 ministry contacts, including 1,305 chaplaincy contacts, 135 Gospel presentations, and 94 professions of faith.

Southern Baptist volunteers have begun clearing trees and debris in the piney woods of East Texas, but the physical damage to churches along the Gulf Coast was harder to assess just after the storm. The Galveston and Bay City areas near Houston were without electricity and phone service.

Ike's destructive swath was "catastrophic," said Jim Richardson, SBTC disaster relief director, spreading its damage east of Galveston into Louisiana and north into deep East Texas along much of the same area that Hurricane Rita devastated in September 2005.

"We have cleanup and recovery teams in the field right now. We're assessing damage in East Texas. We have all of our DR (disaster relief) units out. Texas Baptist Men has all of theirs out," Richardson said.

"Our teams are feeding, doing cleanup and assessment, or providing for chaplaincy needs. The shelters are still very active. We have immediate need of volunteers for mud-out and chainsaw work."

Attempts by the Texan, the SBTC news journal, to reach churches along the Gulf Coast were mostly unsuccessful.

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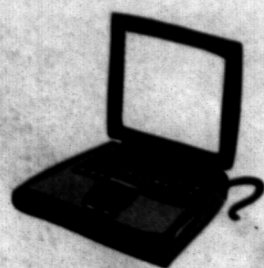
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MISSISSIPPI  
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# A new political low

"Jesus was a community organizer and Pontius Pilate was a governor. That's all I have to say." — Actress Susan Sarandon, September 11 on Entertainment Tonight.

"Jesus was a community organizer. Pontius Pilate was a governor, and perhaps they should understand the role of a community organizer to help people in distress." — Donna Brazile, former presidential campaign manager for Al Gore, September 7 on CNN.

"I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the parties have differences, but if you want change, you want the Democratic Party. Barack Obama was a community organizer like Jesus who our minister prayed about. Pontius Pilate was a governor." — Congressman Steve Cohen (D.-Tn.), September 10 on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Entertainers and politicians have a knack for cheapening anything and thinking themselves clever, but it seems supporters of a certain party's candidate for U.S. president in the upcoming election have reached a new low — if that's even possible.

Actress Susan Sarandon, veteran campaign manager Donna Brazile, and Congressman Steve Cohen all three compared Democratic Party presidential candidate Barack Obama to Republican Party vice-presidential candidate and Alaska

Governor Sarah Palin in a most vulgar and sacrilegious way, and they all did it within three days of each other. Coincidence?

What they did was tag Jesus Christ as a community organizer like Barack Obama, and Sarah Palin as a governor like Pontius Pilate. In keeping with the biblical account, they were implying that Obama is the noble, self-sacrificing candidate in the race while Palin is some dark, sinister character from the nether regions of the country.

Now, for the purposes of this column, understand that it doesn't matter which party's supporters lowered themselves to compare the Son of God and the Savior of the world to politicians running for high office. If three Republican supporters had been so trite, they would be in the hot seat on these pages.

To be fair, Obama himself has never personally compared himself to Jesus in any way. The reality, however, is that three supporters of the Democratic Party candidate did make the comparison.

For starters, Sarandon and Brazile and Cohen and others of their ilk are apparently ignorant of both history and theology. If Jesus must be described by His earthly vocation, He was actually a carpenter and not a community activist. He did not organize political movements as do community activists, and He did not seek to climb the ladder of political success, as do community activists. He never had any real political power, nor did He ever lobby politicians for favored status for His group or Himself, as community activists do.

In fact, He loathed the political, social, and religious systems of the time and never sought to organize any group larger than His disciples. That was simply not His mission.

Secondly, Jesus Christ is much too important a figure to be compared with any mere mortal alive or dead. Christian tradition holds that many persecuted early Christians, upon being condemned to death for their faith, asked to be crucified upside down lest their martyrdom somehow be compared to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Such selflessness indicated the special place in their hearts they had reserved only for Jesus above all else — not so among our modern political players.

Jesus is the Son of God, not some malleable puppet to be molded in whatever manner suits the current political whim. To do so betrays a palpable disrespect for Christ and Christianity, and a contempt for believers that obviously pervades the entertainment industry and the political class in this country.

Lastly, Christians should be keen to correct such blasphemy when we hear it. This world is confusing enough for lost people seeking purpose in their lives, and we need to be sure they have a proper understanding of the real nature of Jesus Christ — not some unrecognizable caricature twisted to the benefit of a political cause.

Pray for the people spreading such untruths. Pray for the people who are being led astray, and pray for boldness to stand up for Jesus. After what He did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

## MBCB to offer bulk discount on Fireproof's 'Love Dare'

NASHVILLE (Special) — Even before the unabashedly Christian movie Fireproof opens in 750 theaters on September 26, The Love Dare, a book that began as a plot device in the film, has sold 300,000 copies to bookstores and is in its third printing.

The Fireproof plot turns on The Love Dare, a handwritten book containing a 40-day challenge to learn and practice unconditional love. Promoters have reported that at movie screenings held across the country over the last several weeks, audiences left asking how they could get a copy of the book.

"We shut out the world and wrote for several weeks," said Stephen Kendrick, who with his brother Alex wrote the movie. Both brothers are associate pastors at Sherwood Church in Albany Ga., which produced the movie.

The church and its Mississippi native pastor, Michael Catt, caught a vision several years ago to reach the world for Christ through motion pictures. The result so far has been three movies: Flywheel, Facing the Giants — the 2006 movie that earned \$10.1 million at the box office using an all-volunteer cast from Sherwood Church — and Fireproof.

In the movie, self-centered firefighter Caleb Holt receives a handwritten book from his father, a 40-day challenge to reclaim his marriage as he and wife Elizabeth move toward divorce.



Caleb resents loving in the face of indifference but goes through the motions to respect his father. While Caleb struggles to realign his priorities, Elizabeth rejects each gesture as she builds her career as a public relations executive and is tempted to sin.

The powerful story is making people want the 40-day challenge for themselves. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and B&H Publishing Group are partnering to provide special bulk discounts of 60% on The Love Dare and 55% on the new HSCB Firefighter's Bible from B&H Publishing Group.

"Firefighters have one of the highest divorce rates in the country. Because the movie is centered around firefighters and

many churches and associations are connected with firefighters in their communities, those churches and associations may be interested in providing this material to them as well as their church members," said Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church growth.

The bulk discount is available only to churches and associations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Individuals and other organizations are not eligible. Orders for the materials will be shipped directly to churches and associations.

tions from B&H Publishing with a one-carton (24 copies) minimum, and those entities will reimburse MBCB at the bulk discount rate, Stone said, plus seven percent sales tax and shipping/handling.

An order form is being enclosed in the Pastor's Packet, a regular mailing made to the pastor of every MBCB church. The order form is also available online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

Churches and associations with questions can contact Sandy Bell at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39157-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3310, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: [sbell@mbcb.org](mailto:sbell@mbcb.org).

For more information on the movie and to view the trailer, visit [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com).



# Religious persecution continues in India

**BHUBANESWAR, India (BP)** — A Christian woman told of her husband being cut to pieces before her eyes. A man described his brother being burned alive in his home after refusing to deny Christ.

These are two of the hundreds of stories emerging from India, where anti-Christian attacks carried out by mobs of extremist Hindus in the eastern state of Orissa have yet to be quelled.

"On a nightly basis, Hindu mobs stormed into villages and ransacked the homes of professed believers, taking all their possessions," a Christian worker reported. "After that, they would often beat or kill Christians who refused to deny their faith. In many terrifying cases, family members were forced to watch their loved ones being murdered in the hopes that [the families] would be convinced to return to Hinduism."

An Indian Christian worker recently visited one of the many camps set up to house Christians who have fled the terror. He recorded video interviews with two believers who were told to deny their faith or watch family members be martyred.

Indian news services reported September 15 that anti-Christian violence was continuing in Orissa and had spread to neighboring Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka states.

The anti-Christian violence began after the August 23 assassination of a Hindu swami sparked mob attacks on Christian villages, churches, and homes. The number of victims beaten, hacked, or burned to death since the start of the attacks reportedly has topped 100.

Tens of thousands of Christian villagers terrorized by Hindu extremists continue to

hide in forests — without adequate food and water — or huddle in camps guarded by police. Reports of forced "reconversions" of tribal Christians to Hinduism have emerged from several areas of the state.

A Maoist insurgent group active in Orissa has publicly claimed responsibility for murdering the swami and four of his followers, but Hindu extremists continue to blame the killings on Christians. Hindu mobs have attacked and burned hundreds of homes, churches, schools, and orphanages, primarily in tribal districts where many Christians live.

Christians, including up to 500,000 Baptists, reportedly comprise about 2.4% of Orissa's population of 36.7 million people.

Some Indian political and religious leaders have called for imposing federal rule and sending troops to Orissa, where the ruling Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government has been unable to stop the violence.

Christian representatives have met with India's president, the federal interior minister, Orissa's chief minister and other political leaders to ask for protection of Christians in Orissa.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has called on President George W. Bush and U.S. congressional leaders to intervene to bring an end to anti-Christian violence in Orissa.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan commission has urged the U.S. State Department to return Vietnam to its list of the world's worst violators of religious liberty.

The recommendation came in a report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)



**VIOLENCE SPREADING** — Persecution of minority religious groups in India is spreading as the government there struggles to quell violent protests. Vietnam is also coming under criticism for its suppression of religion. (BP photo courtesy of Deshakalyan Chowdhury/AFP/Getty Images)

on the Southeast Asian country, which is under the rule of a communist regime. Based on its fact-finding trip to Vietnam last fall, the commission reported most of the country's religious groups continue to suffer repression from different levels of government.

The State Department removed Vietnam from its "countries of particular concern" (CPC) in November 2006. CPC designation is reserved for governments that are particularly severe violators of religious freedom. USCIRF objected to the decision and has urged since

then for Vietnam to be restored to the CPC list, a request that has not been granted.

In the new report, USCIRF said Vietnam made some helpful changes after it was given CPC status in 2004 but said it is incorrect to contend the government "is fully committed to respecting religious freedom instead of maintaining control of its diverse religious communities."

Felice Gaer, USCIRF's chair, called on the U.S. government to pressure Vietnam to lift restrictions on religious groups and to release prisoners of conscience.

## ACLU contributes

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)** — Supporters of a constitutional marriage amendment in California are asking constituents to help match a \$1.2 million donation the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) northern California branch gave in recent days to help defeat the proposal. The ACLU's September 3 gift to the "No on 8, Equality for All" campaign is the largest single gift yet to opponents of the amendment, known as Proposition 8, according to the California secretary of state's website. Both sides have raised substantial amounts of money, although it's difficult to gauge who is leading. The Times posted a tally on its website Sept. 5 showing that Prop 8 supporters have raised \$12.8 million, opponents \$10.3 million. It's unclear whether ACLU's donation was included in that tally, which was drawn from data on the California secretary of state's website. Additionally, supporters of homosexual marriage in California have launched a series of TV ads that are unregulated because they don't mention Proposition 8. The proposed ads, backed by a group called Let California Ring, show a bride being tripped as she walks down the aisle. The groom tries to assist her but is held back. The ad ends with the question, "What if you couldn't marry the person you love?" It's unknown how much money is being spent on the ads — donations for the ads don't have to be reported to the state — but ProtectMarriage.com estimates that it's around six million dollars. If that's the case, then supporters of homosexual marriage have a substantial lead in donations.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

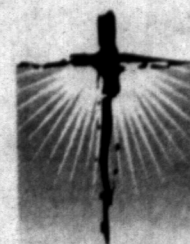
There will be no rift between Southern Baptist conservatives who are not Calvinists and who are Calvinists, so long as both work together on the task of evangelism, Paige Patterson says at Southern Seminary Sept. 10.

### 20 years ago

Mississippi College declares "Dr. and Mrs. Howard Spell Day — A Salute to a Great American Couple." Spell served MC from 1947 to 1972 in various roles as dean and as instructor in Spanish, Greek, religious education, and Bible.

### 50 years ago

The 50th anniversary of Clarke Memorial College will observed Sept. 30, with special features in the afternoon and evening.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

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**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.*

## FIREPROOF

I need not give you a bar-  
rage of statistics in order for  
you to be convinced that mar-  
riages need all of the help that  
they can get. There is no single  
reason for why marriages are  
failing and homes are torn  
apart, but as to the causes of  
what brings about dysfunction  
in our homes, two things stand  
out. There is a lack of commit-  
ment to biblical principles that  
will protect and bless the mar-  
riage. There is also the unre-  
lenting presentation by the  
media showing infidelity and  
personal gratification as the  
norm. The entertainment  
media, especially television  
and movies, make an impact  
on our society and our fami-  
lies that can only be described  
as incalculable.

In only a few days, a movie  
is going to be released across  
the land that I believe is going  
to make a tremendous differ-  
ence in many homes. On  
September 26, the movie,  
**FIREPROOF**, will be seen in  
theaters across America. It is  
the latest movie from  
Sherwood church in Albany,  
Georgia. This church felt the  
Lord leading them to start a  
ministry to touch people's  
lives through this medium.  
This movie will bless your life.  
It is for anyone who is mar-  
ried, or anyone who knows  
someone who is married, or  
anyone who wants to be mar-  
ried, or anyone who wants to  
be unmarried. This movie is  
going to have impact in our

churches and beyond in the  
days ahead.

All across Mississippi the-  
aters will be showing this  
movie. If you are wondering  
where it will be shown in your  
area, you can go to [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com), and you  
will find the listings all the  
way from north Mississippi to  
the Gulf Coast. We had a pre-  
view showing of the movie  
here at the Baptist Building for  
our workers and for pastors  
and staff in the Metro and  
Rankin Associations on two  
occasions. Both times the peo-  
ple who came were blessed,  
challenged, and encouraged.  
The only complaints we got  
were from the first group that  
saw the film. They were fuss-  
ing because we did not have  
Kleenex available. The next  
showing we had several  
boxes that were passed up  
and down the aisles. You will  
laugh, you will cry, you will  
think, you will reflect, you  
will pray, you will wish, you  
will wonder, and you will be  
glad that you went.

Will every person who goes  
to see this movie be trans-  
formed and all of their homes

## Directions

*Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*



be renewed? That is unrealis-  
tic, but there will be enough  
biblical seeds and Gospel  
truths sown into lives that I am  
convinced they will bring forth  
a harvest in the days ahead.  
You can be a part of an action  
squad of one person making a  
difference for someone. Let  
me just list for you some things  
that you can do that will make  
a tremendous difference.

1. **Go see this movie.** It will  
not only make a difference in  
your heart; it will make a dif-  
ference in the impact of it  
being shown in an ever-  
enlarging way across our  
nation. Film promoters

expand the opportunities for  
people to see it because people  
go and see it. Your attendance  
will provide an opportunity  
for others to attend.

2. **Pray that God will take  
His Word shared through this  
medium to touch the lives of  
people all across our land**  
whose homes are in trouble,  
whose relationships are teeter-  
ing on the brink of brokenness,  
and whose hearts are empty  
wanting to experience some-  
thing that is real and genuine.

3. **When you see the movie,  
one of the things that you will  
notice throughout the film is a  
book that becomes prominent  
in the reestablishing of this  
home.** The book is entitled,  
The Love Dare, and the book is  
available at LifeWay Stores  
and other outlets for you to  
use individually or to use as a  
guide for a small group study  
or with couples. Do not miss  
this opportunity and blessing.

*The author can be contacted at  
[jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FBC SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS IS SEEK-**  
ING a full-time minister of youth (6th  
through 12th). Send resume to Youth  
Minister Search Committee, 701 Country  
Club Road, Sherwood, Arkansas 72120 or  
email to [dondavis102@comcast.net](mailto:dondavis102@comcast.net).

**FOR SALE - HAMMOND ORGAN,**  
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**ASSOCIATE PASTOR: FBC, ROGERSVILLE,**  
Alabama, is accepting resumes for a  
full-time associate pastor.  
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education. Send resumes to search  
committee, P.O. Box 146,  
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top priority, owned & operated by christ-  
ian family since 1988, 205-556-0368 or  
205-752-1231,  
[www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com).



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

This fall, from September 24 through November 2,  
Jackson will be uniting with hundreds of cities across  
America for a pro-life prayer campaign. People of faith  
are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the  
end of abortion.

The 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is made up of three  
key components:

• **Prayer:** We are inviting people of faith throughout our  
state to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer for an  
end to abortion. Begin your participation by either signing  
up online at [www.40daysforlife.com/jackson](http://www.40daysforlife.com/jackson) or complet-  
ing a participation card and then daily prayer devotionals  
will be sent to you.

• **Peaceful Vigil:** Join us in standing for life with your  
public witness by praying outside the last abortion clinic in  
Mississippi at 2903 N. State Street, in the Fondren area  
of Jackson.

• **Community Awareness:** We are taking a posi-  
tive, upbeat pro-life message to people throughout our  
state through churches, the media and other opportuni-  
ties to be a voice for the unborn. Encourage others to join  
us in praying during this vital time in the history of  
America.

Learn more about participating by contacting:

Terri Herring at [PLANforLife@comcast.net](mailto:PLANforLife@comcast.net), or calling  
601-942-0340 or by visiting us at:

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**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN**  
Brookhaven, MS, is seeking a full-time  
worship leader to lead a contempo-  
rary worship ministry. Please send  
resume to 749 North Jackson St.,  
Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to  
[ryan@cbcbrookhaven.org](mailto:ryan@cbcbrookhaven.org).

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN**  
Vicksburg, MS seeking individual for full-  
time minister of music. Please send  
resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn:  
personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61  
South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to  
[IBC\\_personnel@yahoo.com](mailto:IBC_personnel@yahoo.com).

**PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS**  
seeking a part-time Minister of Music for  
Worship Services, Adult, youth, and chil-  
dren's choirs. Please forward resume to  
the Pelahatchie Baptist Church, search  
committee, P O Box 876, Pelahatchie,  
MS 39145, attn: Due McKinion. Email:  
[due@rankincounty.org](mailto:due@rankincounty.org).

**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL**  
county, Miss., seeking part-time youth  
director with potential for growth. Please  
send resume to search committee, P.O.  
Box 734, Potts Camp, MS 38659.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

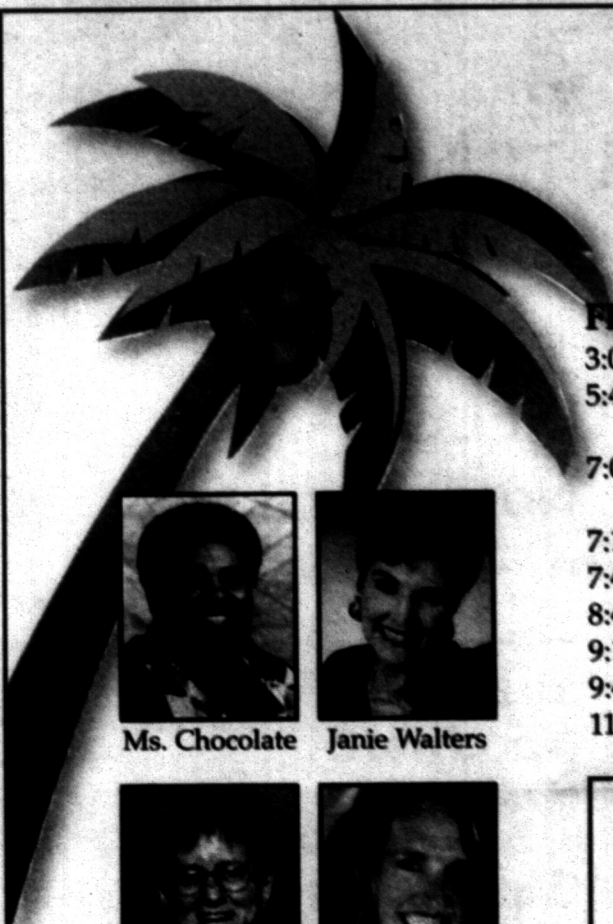
# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 18, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## "Your Invitation to Paradise" Fueled by Faith – State Women's Retreat October 17-18, 2008 Garaywa Camp and Conference Center



Ms. Chocolate



Janie Walters



Becky Brown



Kathy Frady

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

### FRIDAY, October 17

- 3:00 p.m. Check-in Begins; Prayerwalk; Rest & Relax
- 5:45 Welcome Aboard & Garaywa Luau featuring "the Creative Dramatist"
- 7:00 Worship Celebration I  
Welcome, Introductions & Call to Worship
- 7:15 Missionary Prayer Time
- 7:45 "Chocolate in Concert"
- 8:45 Theme Interpretation by "the Creative Dramatist"
- 9:15 Fellowship Luau - Chocolate Fountain included
- 9:45 Prayer & Share Groups I
- 11:00 Good Night!

### Registration form at

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)  
Mail to: Garaywa Camp  
& Conference Center  
312 Camp Garaywa Rd.  
Clinton, MS 39056

Registration Fee: \$10

Registration Deadline to reserve  
housing and meals at Garaywa  
(only lodging still available are  
cabins with outside bathrooms):  
Wednesday, October 8, 2008  
No refunds after deadline,  
substitutions only.

### SATURDAY, October 18

- 7:30 a.m. Break the Fast (Breakfast-Dining Hall)
- 8:30 Worship Celebration II  
Good Morning Welcome & Call to Worship
- 8:45 Missionary Prayer Time
- 9:15 "Little Brown Light in Concert"
- 10:15 Fellowship Luau
- 10:45 Prayer & Share Groups II
- 11:30 Theme Interpretation by  
"the Creative Dramatist"
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Luau
- 1:30 Worship Celebration III  
"Lighten Up Ministries," Janie Walters
- 2:30 Commitments & Reflections

### Optional lodging at nearby hotels:

Comfort Inn, 601-924-9364  
Days Inn, 601-925-5065  
Hampton Inn, 601-925-9393  
Holiday Inn Express, 601-798-0400

For additional information, please contact MS wMu at 800-748-1651, ext. 317; 601-292-3317; or E-mail [Lmiller@mbcb.org](mailto:Lmiller@mbcb.org)

## Bivocational/Small Church Ministers attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention in October

Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008, in the Sky Room on the 4th floor of the Baptist Building. **All Mississippi bivocational/small church MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES are invited to a BANQUET AND DIALOGUE at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.**

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008:

- 3:00 p.m. Mississippi Council on Bivocational/Small Church Ministries Meeting
- 5:00 Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet
- 5:30 "What's Happening in Your Life, Your Family and Your Church?"
- 6:30 Pastors Conference, First Baptist, Jackson

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell ([kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org) or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.





37th Annual

# CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 3-4, 2008

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON, MISS.



SPECIAL GUEST: Dinner Speaker

**Angela Hunt**

With over three million copies of her books sold worldwide, Christy-Award winner, Angela Hunt, is the best-selling author of more than 100 works. See: [www.angelaelwellhunt.com](http://www.angelaelwellhunt.com)

## PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

**DONNA AINSWORTH**

**BETH ANDREWS**

**KARY BARTH**

**MARY BROUSSARD**

**HOPE FERGUSON**

**SANDRA FITTS**

**EVA NELL HUNTER**

**PEGGY TACON**

### FOR INFORMATION:

Contact Communication  
Services:

1-800-748-1651, ext. 378

(Miss. only),

or 601-292-3378

or E-mail:

[jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org)

## Interim Pastor Training



Lee County Baptist Association Office

**TUPELO**

**Tuesday, November 11**

**9 a.m. - noon**

LED BY:

**Alan Woodward**

Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development Department

**Bruce Cappleman**

Director

MBCB Church-Minister Relations Department

For more information, contact

Pam May, Church-Minister Relations Department  
601-292-3225, 1-800-748-1651, or E-mail [pmay@mbcb.org](mailto:pmay@mbcb.org)

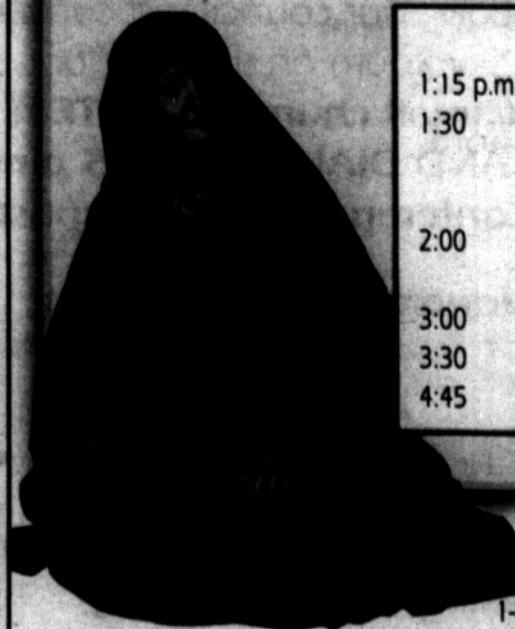
2nd Annual Fall Singles Conference

Saturday, October 4, 2008

SINGLE,  
but NEVER alone

## Ministers' Wives Conference

*"At the feet of Jesus"* presented by Rita Sweatt



### Agenda

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1:15 p.m. | Registration - Chapel, FBC, Jackson         |
| 1:30      | Welcome and introductions                   |
|           | Alan Woodward, Fellowship greeting          |
|           | Shirley Futral                              |
| 2:00      | "At the Feet of Jesus" -                    |
|           | Mary of Bethany                             |
| 3:00      | Fellowship                                  |
| 3:30      | "Listening and Loving at the Feet of Jesus" |
| 4:45      | Adjourn                                     |

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department: 601-292-3305,  
1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)



## Senior Adult Retreat IV

September 25-26

FBC, McComb

### Speaker: Sonny Adkins

Former state evangelism director

### Choirs:

25th - FBC Senior Adult Choir, Pascagoula

26th - Lamar County Association Choir

### Gatherings:

25th - "Professor Cornpone"

Joseph Harris, Ellisville

26th - Piano/organ duet

Irene Martin and Ed Sudduth

For info: 601-292-3373 or gshows@MBCB.org



Your Margaret Lackey gifts helped to share the Gospel in more than 51 nations last year. Encourage your church to support the state missions offering this Fall.

# 2009

## BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEW BRUNCHES

Led by:

**Argile Smith**

FBC, Biloxi



All scheduled for **9 A.M. - NOON**

**Monday, January 26**

Main Street BC, Hattiesburg

**Tuesday, January 27**

Brandon BC, Brandon

**Thursday, January 29**

FBC, Oxford

**VIBRANT  
CHURCH**

### Featured Book

**BECOMING A HEALTHY CHURCH  
IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Thom S. Rainer & Daniel L. Akin

Preregistration requested. The \$10 registration fee includes the full brunch and the featured study course book.

For more information, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, 601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284, or dbrashier@mbcb.org

# GET READY!!!

## YOUTH MINISTER'S RETREAT

**November 10-12**  
**Lake Fork Khata**  
**Louisville, Miss.**

### Speakers:

**Allen Jackson, NOBTS**  
**Randy Hall, Student Life**  
**Birmingham, Ala.**

Discipleship and Family Ministry  
601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284



Pray this day for...

September 19 - October 9, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

Psalm 46:10

Anti-Gambling (CAC Emphasis) Pray for deliverance for those who have been caught up in an addiction to gambling. Pray for their families who often suffer greatly due to the addiction of a family member. Pray that pastors and church leaders will know how to minister to those caught in this addiction.

In our "greying" society, there are many older people who are being cared for by their children or others. Pray for the caregivers who often struggle with the changes in their relationship with aging parents and the stress of having to make difficult decisions. Pray that they will be able to totally entrust themselves and their parents to the Lord's care.

Mississippi Baptist College Day (MBCB Emphasis) Pray for our Baptist colleges and the impact they will make on the students, our state, our nation and our world.

Pray for the Church Related Vocations Banquet at William Carey University in Hattiesburg this evening. Pray that students will be encouraged, inspired and affirmed in their plan to pursue church related vocations. (P/LD)

Discipleship Emphasis Month (D&FM). Discipleship is following Jesus in a personal, dependent and obedient relationship. It is a process of becoming Christlike and being active in seeing others become disciples. It is a lifelong journey of obedience to Christ that spiritually transforms ones values and behavior and results in ministry in home, church and the world.

(1) Pray for the Church Related Vocations Banquet at Mississippi College this evening. Pray that students will be encouraged, inspired and affirmed in their plan to pursue church related vocations. (P/LD)

Christians in India are being attacked by Hindu extremists, resulting in burned churches, killings, and ministry disruption. Thousands are still sheltering under police guard in makeshift camps on church grounds, school campuses and police stations. At last count, 53 people had been murdered, and 60,000 others fled to the camps and forests.

Pray for thousands of Serbian children living in orphanages, foster care and dormitories. Many are isolated by disabilities and separated from nurturing homes. Few of these children will ever hear about the love of Jesus Christ from adults around them, as less than 0.2 percent of the country's 10 million people are Evangelical Christian.

Student Day at Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD). Pray for the students to learn about the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board so they will be able to utilize the resources in their future ministries.

Efforts by Bolivia's president Evo Morales to reform the country include threatening to kick all of the missionaries out of the country. Some of the missionaries have been there for 30 years, and now they're looking at having to leave.

Chiefs in a village in Panama have threatened to kick new believers out or at least stop the teaching of God's Word because new converts to Christ have refused to participate in village-wide drinking feasts because of their new faith. Pray that new believers will be discouraged, but be steadfast in their convictions.

Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS. Pray for directors and consultants to seek God's direction in their ministries and personal lives, that they might be most effective in their ministries.

(1) Pray for the Church Related Vocations Banquet at Blue Mountain College this evening. Pray that students will be encouraged, inspired and affirmed in their plan to pursue church related vocations. (P/LD) (2) Pray for the State Senior Adult Retreat IV at FBC, McComb, on the 25th and 26th. Pray for a fresh vision for this season of life.

Pray for the body of underground believers in China. Pray that the Lord will protect, sustain, and strengthen them. Pray for all the churches of China as they reach out to an intellectual and actively seeking culture.

Pray for Mr. B, a college president in India, who is a Christian. He desires that the gospel be shared in his college, but his superior, the manager of the college, a strict Hindu, does not. Pray for God's protection of Mr. B as he seeks to quietly open doors for the gospel. Pray for the manager to have an encounter with Jesus Christ, repent and believe.

(1) Pray for the Chaplain's Fall Training at the Baptist Building. Pray for chaplains to be encouraged in their ministry. (MM) (2) Pray for mothers' and daughters' hearts to be bonded for a lifetime of missions involvement during the Mother/Daughter Overnight at Garaywa on the 19th - 20th. (wMu)

Pray for the State College Student Conference, Crossgates BC, Brandon, on the 19th and 20th. Pray for this fall gathering of college students from churches and BSUs across Mississippi to be a weekend of inspiration, fellowship and challenge.

Pray for the Special Ministries Retreat at Garaywa on the 26th and 27th. Pray for these special ones to have fun, stay safe and hear in their hearts how much God loves them. Encourage and strengthen caregivers through sharing with one another during this time.

Pray for Myanmar. It's been nearly four months since Cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar in May, killing thousands and leaving thousands of others with nothing. Many villages in Myanmar have not received any relief or aid from outside, and they are just barely living. Pray for supplies and the gospel of Christ to reach those in need.

More than one million people evacuated their homes in Cuba as Hurricane Ike tore into the country, killing at least four people. In his wake, there were 20 inches of rain and damages left by 100-mph sustained winds. Pray for believers as they have a great opportunity to act as the hands and feet of Christ.

The rainy season is upon the Wolof, Lebou and Jola-Fonyi people who live in Africa. In recent years, the rainy season has been shorter resulting in little rice. Rain is good, but many men work long hours in the fields and no longer have time to listen to Bible stories. Pray that they realize that God's Word is just as important as tending to their fields.



DECEMBER

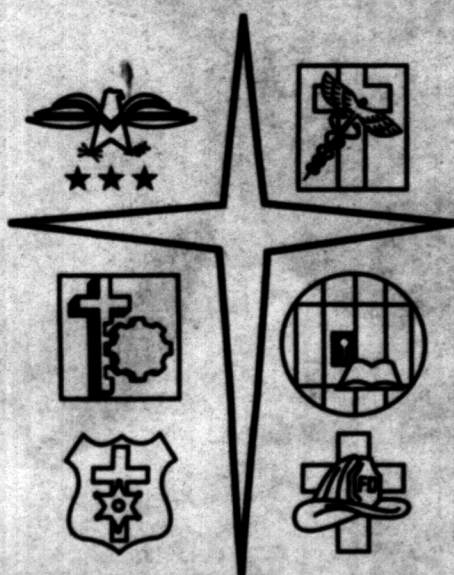
12/27/02  
MISS SOPHIE JOHNSON  
Parents: Daron & Judy, Restricted

12/27/89  
MR. LUCAS ALEXANDER  
Parents: Mark & Karen, South America

12/30/91  
MR. BENJAMIN AUSTIN  
Parents: Arnold & Susie, South America

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE:  
Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.



## Chaplains Annual Fall Banquet October, 28, 2008

4:45-6:30 p.m.  
Skyroom, Baptist Building  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, Miss.

All career, volunteer, and retired chaplains are invited to join us for dinner and a time of entertainment.

For more information, call Carol Wright in Men's Ministry at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 334, or 601-292-3334.

# HOUSE TOPS



## STATE CHANGES

1. **Mt. Zion Church, Webster Association**, has called Larry Halford as pastor effective Aug. 31. Shown are Halford, wife Charlsie, and son Jacob. He comes from Double Springs Church, Golden Triangle Association, where the family were members.



1. The Halfords

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info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

## First Baptist Church of Fannin

### Revival Services

**Twin Revival**  
**September 21-8:30 AM & 10:50 AM**  
Rev. Michael Bird, Pastor  
Pocahontas Baptist Church

**September 21st-6:00 PM**  
Rev. Jay Richardson Pastor  
Highland Colony Baptist Church

**September 22nd-7:00 PM**  
Rev. Gary Richardson, Pastor  
North Oxford Baptist Church

**September 23rd-7:00 PM**  
Rev. Ralph Henson, Pastor  
Life Baptist Church-Meridian

**September 24th-7:00 PM**  
Rev. Rick Henson, Pastor  
Oakdale Baptist-Brandon

## COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** is presenting *Blithe Spirit*, Oct. 30 - Nov. 8, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Dec. 1 - 3. Tickets are \$5 for MC students, faculty, staff, and senior citizens; \$10, general admission. For more information, call (601) 925-3935.
2. Twenty-seven freshmen were named **William Carey University Scholars** for the 2008-2009 academic year. Each scholar will receive 30 hours of tuition per year, a room waiver, and their choice of a high-tech Dell laptop or a cultural and sightseeing international trip. Shown are the recipients.



2. WCU Scholars

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

1. **Calvary Church, Holly Springs**: Last week of July; average attendance, 36, with two professions of faith.
2. **Phillipston Church, Mid-Delta Association**: Average attendance, 44, with six professions of faith; George Mims, pastor.



2. Phillipston Church

## SEATS STILL LEFT on these Four - 2008 Tours

### RURAL NEW ENGLAND IN THE FALL

**OCTOBER 6-16**

Lake Placid, New York Billy Graham Library  
Green Mountains of Vermont Hershey  
Gettysburg Amish Country  
White Mountains of "In the Beginning"  
New Hampshire Sight and Sound Theater

Much More...

11 days 10 nights \$1975 PP/Dbl.

Purpose Driven Tours 601-371-8733

Also offering 3 Great Christmas Tours:

Branson Christmas Nov. 17-21  
Smoky Mountain Christmas Dec. 1-6  
Opikland Country Christmas Dec. 15-18

Deadline for Registration is October 23, 2008

## BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
© 2005

WOG, WMDBCM, WM  
QBG HVQBKUQG BT  
GLHE BQM GLHGV, GLUG  
BQM IUX HE ZHGL GLM  
DBKI UE U GLBOEUQI  
XMUKE, UQI U GLBOEUQI  
XMUKE UE BQM IUX.  
EMYBQI SMGMK GLKMM:  
MHVLG

Clue: : K=R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezra Seven Twenty-six

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Horseshoe Church, Holmes Association**: Revival, Sept. 21 - 24; Sun., 6 PM; Mon. - Wed., 7 PM; Bobby Brindle, speaker.
2. **Artesia Church, Artesia**: Homecoming, Sept. 21; Sunday School, 10:15 AM; worship, 11 AM, followed by covered dish meal; Jeff Morgan, pastor.
3. **Clifton Church, Forest**: Homecoming, Sept. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 AM; worship, 10:45 AM, followed by fellowship meal; Andy Boles, pastor.
4. **Damascus Church, Hazlehurst**: Homecoming, Sept. 21; worship, 10:30 AM, followed by covered dish lunch; James White, speaker; Randy Davis, pastor.
5. **Bradford Chapel Church, Gore Springs**: 75th anniversary, Sept. 21, 2 PM; Joey Hamilton, speaker; for more information, call (662) 637-2731 or visit [www.bradfordchapel.net](http://www.bradfordchapel.net).
6. **First Church, Aberdeen**: Revival, Sept. 21 - 24; Sun., 10:45 AM and 6 PM; Mon. - Wed., noon with lunch and 6:30 PM; Keith Fordham, speaker; Ron and Claudia Henderson, music; Roy McKay, pastor.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. The youth of Enterprise Church, Enterprise, attended Centrifuge at Mississippi College July 6 - 10. Shown are the participants.
2. A mission team from Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, and Friendship Church, Aberdeen, went to Ebenezer Church, New York City, where they participated in VBS and evangelistic services. Twenty-four professions of faith were made. Shown are the participants.
3. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting the Reeves Family at a community singing Sept. 20, 6 PM.
4. Tate Church, Corinth, is hosting The Southern Plainsmen Quartet in concert Sept. 21, 6 PM.
5. McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, is hosting a regional training event for Telephone Encouragers Sept. 25, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Training will be led by a representative of the North American Mission Board.
6. North Columbia Church, Columbia, will host the Bibletones Sept. 21, 10:30 AM, and Edna Church will host the same group at 5 PM. A love offering will be received.

• • •



1. Enterprise Church youth



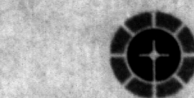
2. Escatawpa and Friendship Churches

## MBC ANNUAL MEETING '08

The annual meeting of the Mississippi alumni of Southwestern Seminary will be Oct. 28, noon, in the chapel dining room of First Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$11 and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339. Email [amd@winston-baptist.org](mailto:amd@winston-baptist.org) or call (662) 773-3366. Tickets must be purchased in advance.



75th Anniversary Church Celebrations



HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Tupelo, MS 38801

662-842-6917

[www.harrisburgonline.org](http://www.harrisburgonline.org)

Harrisburg Baptist Church invites you to join us in celebrating 75 years of worship and ministry.

September 14<sup>th</sup>

Great Hymns of Faith, presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra; 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow.

September 21<sup>st</sup>

Morning Celebration Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Dramatic presentation of the history of Harrisburg, "The Wind in His Fists"; 6:00 p.m.

# Soul-Winning Day set for Oct. 5

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) -- "Who's in Your Wallet?" is the theme of this year's Soul-Winning Commitment Day, which will be observed October 5 throughout the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The annual day is sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga. Playing off the slogan of a well-known credit card's TV ad campaign, NAMB has developed a "3-1-6" prayer card on which Southern Baptists can write the names of three friends or relatives who need Christ. Keeping the card in their wallets or purses as a reminder, Baptists are asked to pray for these three people once a day for six days.

The special-day emphasis is part of NAMB's national evangelism initiative -- God's Plan for Sharing -- developed and sponsored by NAMB's evangelism group.

"Sunday, October 5 is the day designated for Soul-winning Commitment Day, but Southern Baptists are expected to emphasize evangelism throughout the year," said Dick Church, church evangelism resource coordinator on NAMB's evangelism team.

"If not on October 5, we hope SBC churches will schedule and hold an evangelism emphasis another Sunday during the year," Church said. "Whenever it's held, the day should be a time of inspiration, motivation, communication, celebration, instruction, commitment and prayer."

Church said other downloadable resources are available online ([www.thebigday.org](http://www.thebigday.org)) for Soul-Winning Commitment Day, in addition to the Who's in Your Wallet? 3-1-6 prayer cards. These include an implementation guide, sermon outlines and videos, posters, Sunday School/small group lessons, instructions on how to use the 3-1-6 prayer cards, and personal

evangelism training methods. All resources are available in English, Korean, Chinese, and Spanish. To order prayer cards, call 866-407-NAMB (6262). Cards come in packets of 100 for nine dollars. For more information, call (770) 410-6372.

"Personal evangelism has always defined Southern Baptists," Church said. "This main focus constantly challenges us to build bridges to reach out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ. It is our great privilege and personal responsibility to share the Gospel with unbelievers."

Meanwhile, a church in Tennessee baptized 120 people in one night following an evangelism emphasis called, As You Go, which challenged church members to choose a non-Christian and then pray for that person, develop a relationship, and present the Gospel.

New Vision Church in Murfreesboro draws about 2,400 people to four weekend services. A few months ago they held a call to prayer and fasting as part of the As You Go emphasis. Participants were challenged to fast one day and show up that evening in the church sanctuary to pray for the people they had committed to reach.

At the end of the prayer time, church members were encouraged to conclude their fasting by taking communion. People of all age groups, including youth, came and went during the evening, not following any particular schedule, the church's pastor, Brady Cooper, said.

Often people would pray for 15-20 minutes for the person

they had chosen before placing a card with the person's name on it on the altar and taking communion, he said. Cooper noted the importance of people being willing to sacrifice through fasting and then showing up at church to pray specifically for friends and acquaintances who didn't know Christ.

In the days that followed, the church offered a crash course in evangelism in order to help people become more comfortable with sharing the Gospel with the people they had committed to reach. The church also offered what they called summer school classes during worship times, starting with the topic, assurance of salvation, and moving on to faith and fundamentals of baptism.

At the same time adults were moving through the classes, the church's youth and children learned some of the same key information. The church website provided tips for church members on ways they could initiate relationships with the people they wanted to reach, such as taking the person to a movie with discount tickets provided by the church.

All along, members were encouraged to bring visitors to a baptism service at the end of June. That night Cooper presented the plan of salvation and discussed the purpose of baptism in the Christian life. At the invitation time, many people made public professions of faith.

After waiting for the rain to stop, the crowd moved out to a nearby field with three huge crosses. To their delight, God provided a rainbow in the sky.





# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## No Time Like The Present

Matthew 25:1-13

By Bobby McKay

Popular radio host and financial advisor Dave Ramsey has become a household name by teaching people the common sense approach to making a budget, paying off debt, and investing for the future. While listening one day to the various stories of debt and despair, one young woman seemed to encapsulate the mood of the hour. You could hear the burden in her voice as she shared with Dave that she was 25 years old and had already accumulated \$300,000 in credit card and personal loan debt. When he asked her how she could let the debt get to such mind-boggling proportions, she stated that when the day came to pay it off finally arrived, she would be prepared to do so. It had come to a point in her life where it was impossible for her

to pay her living expenses and keep up with the minimum payments from the credit card companies. Her plan of "I will worry about it tomorrow," had finally caught up with her. Failing to prepare and make wiser choices earlier in life left her with anxiety, fear, and uncertainty.

Individuals in our churches, workplaces, schools, and communities who continue to knowingly live without Christ face a great tragedy eternally if they choose not to become a believer in Jesus Christ. Those that exhibit the mindset of "wait and see" or "maybe later" are demonstrating an absence of faith and a disturbing act of pride.

### I. The Participants (Matthew 25:1-5)

You may find it interesting in this parable to see how much these women had in



Bobby McKay

common. All ten were betrothed to be married, all had lamps that required oil, and we see where all ten later would fall asleep.

The differences however, not the similarities are what we must focus on in order to understand the timeless application of this parable. The NASB uses the words foolish and prudent in verse two to differentiate between the two groups of women. This verse serves as a foreshadowing for the end of the parable. Jesus clearly states that five of these ladies were of thoughtless mind and judgment.

By way of history, we must note the process of weddings in Jesus' culture and Jewish society. This parable was not a far-fetched one for His audience. They understood precisely the picture Jesus was creating with His words. Weddings during this time in Jewish culture took place in stages. At this point in the marriage process we observe the bridegroom coming to claim his bride and then

begin the celebration of banquets and other festivities.

Do not forget that each of the ten virgins were well aware that the time was approaching when the bridegroom would come for them and take them to the banquet table. The foolish virgins demonstrated their lack of faith that the bridegroom would come and their pride when they chose not to take oil with them to light their lamps. The foolish women wanted to be beneficiaries of joy, but provided no outward evidence that would show the bridegroom their earnestness to be associated with him.

### II. The Problem (Matthew 25:6-9)

The ladies were unprepared for the problem that awaited them while they slept. The bridegroom was coming! The illustration provided in the text is that one day soon, while many people around us are "sleeping", Jesus will come again. Time had run out for each of these ten virgins, and the foolish ones began to panic. Since they had not been faithful in their preparations, they faced a crisis that was now impossible to cure. In their des-

peration, they begged the other women to share their oil with them. Do not miss this: if you are counting on others, your works, or religion to be your salvation, you will be left empty-handed and unable to bargain your way into heaven. Salvation is a personal decision that we must make for ourselves.

### III. The Plea (Matthew 25:10-13)

The foolish women however, did not give up. They hurried and purchased oil that was sufficient for their lamps, and began to plead with the bridegroom to receive them. The bridegroom would have nothing to do with them. He would even go so far as to deny knowing them. How tragic it will be on the final day when the Lord Jesus speaks the words to lost men and women, "I do not know you". As we come to the end of this parable, I am reminded of the words from a poem that Tennyson once wrote, "there is no more ominous sound than hearing the words: too late".

McKay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Trusting in the Lord Alone

1 Samuel 4:1b-22; 5-6; 7:2-4, 5-6, 7-11, 12-14, 15-17

By Ginger M. Caughman

The Lord God is holy! The movie, "A Man Called Peter" (1955), based on the life of Scottish preacher Peter Marshall inspired a young teen. I especially loved the part where the choir was singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy." I could hear the moving alto part and was being taught in church and school choirs how to sing alto. I still love to sing praises to God and worship Him with others in the body of Christ.

As modern day Christians, we must never forget the fact, God is holy. Israel did forget over and over. Our holy God demands, not superstition, but true worship from the heart. Sing to Him now: "Holy, Holy, Holy!" (Rev. 4:8 Heber/Dykes). Be sure and read all four background chapters of this week's dramatic story.

Israel suffered "devastating losses and severe afflictions." Israel and the house of Eli were judged and Eli's priesthood ended. The Philistines who worshiped the vegetation god, Dagon, stole the ark of God. They soon learned to fear and honor the Lord God.

The Israelites were camped near Aphek at a site named Ebenezer before they fought in battle against the Philistines (1 Sam. 4:1). After two battles the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant.

### 1. Get Rid of Divided Loyalties

Idol worship was rampant in Biblical times. Samuel called them and calls us to renew and deepen our devotion to God!

Studying with the Christian Women Job Corp, the teacher spoke of the first four commandments and the need to honor God alone and cutout idols from



Caughman

our lives. After several young women named things from their past they had worshipped instead of God, one young woman exclaimed: "I didn't know those were idols!"

Anything that separates us from God can be an idol in our hearts or lifestyle and must be confessed as sin. Scripture promises we can be spiritually cleansed: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us (purify NIV) from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 KJV). Samuel admonished the people to return to God.

### 2. Join Others in Spiritual Renewal

Samuel was God's prophet and also the last of the judges. "Mizpah played an important role in Old Testament history. Samuel gathered Israel to Mizpah and prayed for them in the light of the Philistine threat.

The Israelites worshipped at Mizpah. To pray for others I must first have a clean heart. I often pray this prayer of confes-

sion to Jesus my great high priest: 1 John 1:9.

### 3. Confront Crises with Prayer and Bold Action

Where is your security? This week's challenge is not to substitute security in "idols" but learn to trust in God alone! Not an easy assignment. But when we don't know how, our Lord helps us! (Rom. 8:26; John 15:5, 7-8). Recent hurricane crisis show sincere trust in God when we pray and prepare.

Franklin Graham is a modern example of prayer and bold action. A recent story in Samaritan's Purse prayer guide touched my heart. Mila was raising her granddaughter Fregane but couldn't afford toys. She prayed for one. The Philippine village church was too far for Fregane, age 2 to walk, so Mila tied the child on her back using a small sheet knotted in the front. Operation Christmas Child was at the church that day and by God's grace, in Mila's shoebox was a teddy bear. Mila was overjoyed and immediately tied the toy on her back and carried her new friend. Prayer, action and prayer.

### 4. Commemorate the Lord's Help

Samuel showed faithfulness to the Lord and was an effective leader. Again we see Mizpah (watchtower or lookout), "an important site where legal decisions were made. When the ark was recovered in a decisive Israelite victory," Samuel erected a monument, which he named Ebenezer (stone of help). Notice and remember the spiritual Ebenezer's in your life, the times when God was especially near. Henry Blackaby calls these events "Spiritual Markers." Remembering will encourage you in the future.

Commemorate the Lord's help in your life by living this pair of verses. Proverbs 3:5-6 is a proven Scripture. I am learning to trust in the Lord even when I don't understand. "There's no other way," the old hymn states this Biblical principal of "walking with the Lord in the light of His Word," (Sammis/Towner, 1887). "Trust and obey!"

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be

accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and

white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally

not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

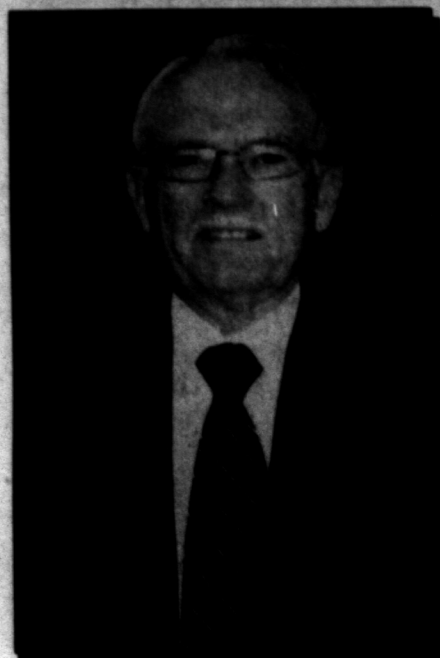
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**





1. Charles Boyles



2. Bush family



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. First Church, Cleveland, recognized Charles Boyles for his second year of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

2. Immanuel Church, Greenwood, recently ordained Ronnie Bush as deacon. Shown are Bush, wife Amy, and daughter Analise.

3. Eastwood Church, Indianola, recently ordained Richard Creekmore as deacon. Shown are Creekmore, wife Mary, and pastor Billy R. Thomas.

4. Mt. Zion Church, Webster Association, observed Grandparent's Day Sept. 7 during the morning worship service, followed by a meal. Shown are some of the participants.

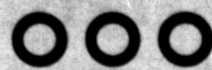
5. Members of First Faith Church, Batesville, participated in a baptism at Sardis Dam Lower Lake. Shown is the baptism.

6. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, ordained Jamey Davion, Andy Puckett, and Kyle Turner as deacons Sept. 7. Shown are pastor Jeff Floyd, Davion, Puckett, and Turner.

7. Unity Church, Hattiesburg, held their annual RA commissioning service Aug. 3. Shown are the participants.

8. Ingomar Church, New Albany, recently recognized Clyde Pound and wife Lynda for ten years of service as senior pastor. Shown are the Pounds, Gary Linville, Heather Linville, and Phil Nanney.

9. Macedonia Church, Petal, recently ordained Jimmy Stokes as deacon. Shown are Jimmie Garrard, Stokes, and Eddie Richards.



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6. Deacon ordination, Calvary Church



7. RA commissioning, Unity Church



8. Pounds recognition, Ingomar Church



9. Stokes ordination



3. Creekmore ordination



4. Grandparent's Day, Mt. Zion Church



5. First Faith Church baptism